

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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R 090921Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2503

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

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AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3146

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJ: PNM LEADERS SAY SDA WILL MEET DL 060 REQUIREMENTS

1. SUMMARY. THE CHAIRMAN AND ORGANIZATION COMMISSIONER OF THE PROGRESSIVE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT TOLD EMBOFFS MARCH 7 THEY BELIEVE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (SDA) WILL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF DECREE LAW 060. THEIR CHIEF REASON FOR OPTIMISM IS A "MORE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE" ON THE PART OF TRAN QUOC BUU, THE LEADER OF THE OTHER MAJOR COMPONENT OF THE ALLIANCE. THEY SAID THE CHIEF OBSTACLE TO COMPLETING THE SDA'S DOCUMENTATION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GVN WILL BE LACK OF COOPERATION FROM LOCAL GVN OFFICIALS IN OBTAINING CERTIFICATES FOR CHAPTER DOSSIERS, THOUGH THEY SEEMED OPTIMISTIC THAT THIEU WOULD INSTRUCT THESE OFFICIALS TO BE HELPFUL. THEY CLAIMED THE SDA IS PICKING UP MEMBERS FROM THE TU DO PARTY, THE RDV AND NON-SDA FACTIONS OF THE VNQDD. END SUMMARY.

2. PNM CHRMN NGUYEN NGOC HUY (PROF HUY) AND COMMISSIONER FOR ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS NGUYEN DINH HUY (AKA VIET HUY) TOLD EMBOFFS MARCH 7 THEY BELIEVE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (SDA) WILL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF DECREE LAW 060 BY THE APRIL 14 DEADLINE.

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(APRIL 14 IS ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE THE MOI FORMALLY GRANTED

PROVISIONAL RECOGNITION TO THE SDA AND HENCE IS THE DATE IT MUST PROVE COMPLIANCE WITH DL 060'S PROVISIONS OR DISSOLVE.) THEY SAID THE SDA HAS DOCUMENTATION UNDERWAY FOR CHAPTERS IN 28 PROVINCES AND SAIGON. THEY HAVE ALREADY FINISHED THE DOCUMENTATION FOR THE VINH LONG PROVINCE CHAPTER AND EXPECT THE SAIGON CHAPTER DOSSIER TO BE FINISHED BY MARCH 10. THEY SAID THEY EXPECT TO LIST 25,000 MEMBERS IN THE SAIGON DOSSIER.

3. THE CHIEF REASON THEY GAVE FOR THEIR OPTIMISM IS THE "MORE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE" SHOWN BY TRAN QUOC BUU AND HIS CVT/FARMER-WORKER PARTY DURING THE PAST TEN DAYS. (COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD ON AN ALMOST DAILY BASIS CONFLICTING STORIES THAT BUU IS PLANNING TO WITHDRAW FROM THE SDA AND THAT HE IS PLANNING TO STICK WITH IT. WHETHER THE PNM LEADERS' OPTIMISM THAT BUU IS IN IS BORNE OUT OVER THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. END COMMENT) VIET HUY ADDED THAT THE CAO DAI-BASED REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY HAS ALSO BECOME MORE COOPERATIVE IN THE PAST FEW DAYS.

4. PROF. HUY SAID THE CHIEF OBSTACLE TO COMPLETING PROVINCE DOSSIERS WILL BE INABILITY TO GET COURT CERTIFICATES (POLICE RECORDS) FOR HE ALLIANCE'S VILLAGE AND HAMLET OFFICERS AND RESIDENCE CERTIFICATES FOR MEMBERS. HE SAID THAT IF LOCAL AUTHORITIES POSE DIFFICULTIES THE CERTIFICATES WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN AND THE SDA WILL BE UNABLE TO PRODUCE ITS QUALIFYING DOCUMENTATION. (COMMENT: TO GET A COURT CERTIFICATE ONE MUST HAVE A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FROM THE DISTRICT CHIEF. AS NOTED IN SAIGON A-45 OF FEB 26, 1974, GVN OFFICIALS HAVE WIDE DISCRETIONARY POWERS FROM WHICH THERE IS NO EFFECTIVE APPEAL TO DECIDE WHO DOES OR DOES NOT RECEIVE SUCH DOCUMENTS. PROF HUY SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT IF THE SDA ENCOUNTERS PROBLEMS

IN THIS RESPECT HE WILL GO TO PRESIDENT THIEU TO SEEK RELIEF. HE APPEARED HOPEFUL HOWEVER THAT THIEU WOULD INSTRUCT LOCAL OFFICIALS NOT

TO BE OBSTRUCTIVE EVEN WITHOUT SUCH AN APPEAL. END COMMENT.)

5. THE MESSRS HUY SAID THE SDA IS BEGINNING TO PICK UP MEMBERS FROM ELEMENTS OUTSIDE THE ORIGINAL SDA PARTIES. THEY CLAIMED TO BE GETTING SUPPORT FROM TU DO PARTY ELEMENTS IN THREE PROVINCES, INCLUDING HEAVILY CATHOLIC LONG KHANH PROVINCE AND BAC LIEU PROVINCE.

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TU DO ELEMENTS ARE MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH THE SDA THROUGH L TRONG QUAT'S CATHOLIC-BASED NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION PARTY. (THE RECENT PUBLIC "DISSOLUTION" OF THE TU DO PARTY BY ITS LEADER NGUYEN VAN HUYEN PROVIDES THE IMPETUS FOR THESE DEFECTIONS.) VNQDD SUPPORT IN MR-1 IS "VERY SOLID", THEY SAID. IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE BOTH THE UNIFIED VNQDD (AN ORIGINAL SDA PARTY) AND THE VU HONG KHANH FACTION ARE WORKING TOGETHER UNDER SDA AUSPICES. SOME VNQDD SUPPORT IS COMING IN THROUGH THE NATIONALIST YOUTH FORCE OF DUY LAM

(LTC NGUYEN KIM TUAN), A VNQDD YOUTH GROUP WHICH ALLIED WITH THEPNM IN LATE 1972. PROF HUY NOTED HOWEVER THAT UNIFIED VNQDD LEADER NGUYEN DINH LUONG HAS GENERALLY OBJECTED TO RECEIVING VNQDD FACTIONS OTHER THAN HIS OWN IN THE SDA AND THAT THIS HAS HAD AN INHIBITING EFFECT ON SDA GROWTH.

6. THE PNM LEADERS ALSO SAID THE ALLIANCE IS PICKING UP SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIET PARTY IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE.

EVIDENTLY HUY OBSERVED, THE RDV MEMBERSHIP DOES NOT CARE TO GO ALONG WITH THE VIRULENT ANTI-THIEU STANCE OF THEIR LEADER HA THUC KY WHO HAS RECENTLY BEEN SPEAKING FOR THE "BAO DAI SOLUTION" TO VIETNAM'S POLITICAL TROUBLES.

7. ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT DECREE - LAW 060 MIGHT BE AMENDED IN THE NEAR FUTURE, PROF HUY REPLIED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT NO MOVE ALONG THESE LINES UNLESS THE SDA ACTUALLY FAILS TO QUALIFY. SHOULD THE SDA FAIL, AN EXTENSION OF THE QUALIFYING DEADLINE FOR ONE MORE YEAR WAS POSSIBLE.

8. COMMENT: ON MARCH 8 BUU INDICATED TO THE LABATT THAT HE STILL DOUBTS THE SDA CAN MEET THE DL-060 DEADLINE, EVEN WITH HIS ACTIVE COOPERATION. HE BELIEVES AN EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE OR MODIFICATION OF THE VALIDATION REQUIREMENTS THEREFORE REMAINS A REAL POSSIBILITY. LEGISLATION AMENDING DL-060 IS RUMORED AS ONE OF THE SEVERAL ITEMS ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S LIST FOR THE UPCOMING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION. THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE TIME ENOUGH BEFORE APRIL 14 FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO OBTAIN THE LEGISLATION IF IT SHOULD CHOOSE TO GO THAT ROUTE.

9. THE PNM LEADERS INDICATED THAT THEY ARE CONCERNED NOW ONLY WITH GETTING THE SDA QUALIFIED. THEY ARE DEFERRING OTHER

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PROBLEMS IN THE ALLIANCE UNTIL LATER. THEY DID NOT DISCUSS PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND TRAN QUOC BUU, BUT THEIR COMMENTS ABOUT BUU'S "MORE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE" INDICATES THAT THIS PROBLEM IS NEVER FAR FROM THEIR MINDS. WHETHER THE SDA QUALIFIES UNDER DL-060 OR NOT STILL REMAINS IN DOUBT, AND WE JUDGE ITS PROSPECTS TO BE NO BETTER THAN EVEN. IF IT DOES QUALIFY, IT WILL BE A SQUAKER.).
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